

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

B235100 16. (Twice Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a computer to determine whether the inventory allocation has been reduced below a preset level.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

B 3C3 29. (Amended) A system comprising:
a server; and
a storage storing software that causes said server to provide an electronic indication of an inventory allocation, receive a request for an additional inventory allocation, and provide an additional inventory allocation.

Remarks

The proposed changes to Figure 1 are indicated in the attached redlined drawing. Generally, the proposed changes, as suggested by the Director (see Paper No. 8), simply include adding a term or terms inside a box or other graphical representation. For example, one proposed change is to include the terms "network" and "Internet" within the representation of a network, such as the Internet, at 14. Although the following discussion includes specific references to the specification, claims and drawings, this should in no way be considered as limiting. There may be additional support in the specification, claims and drawings for the proposed changes that was not expressly cited.

The specification supports each of the proposed drawing corrections. For example, one proposed change is to include the terms "computer" and "server" within boxes 12 and 16. These changes are supported in that the on-line transaction service 12 may include a server and the system 16 may be a server system. See page 4, lines 10-12; page 9, line 5. Additional support may be found in original claims 19 and 29 that each call for a server. Thus, the specification supports the proposed drawing corrections to include the term "server". As stated in the Reply to Paper No. 4, it is well known that a server is a type of computer system. Thus, there is support for the inclusion of the term "computer" within boxes 12 and 16.

Another proposed change is to include the term "memory" within box 13. This change is supported in that original claim 19 calls for a memory to be coupled to the above-mentioned server. Thus, there is support for the proposed change to show that storage 13 may be a memory.

The Applicant's representative has proposed including the terms "OTS Inventory Software" and "IMS Software" within boxes 20 and 52 respectively. These changes are

supported by the specification at page 5, lines 20 through 23. That is, the software 20 may be stored on a storage 13 that is associated with the server utilized by the service 12. Moreover, the software 52 may be stored on a storage 17 that is associated with the system 16. Software 20 is the “OTS” Software, as indicated by Figures 2 and 3 and Software 52 is the “IMS” Software, as indicated by Figure 5. Thus, there is adequate support for the inclusion of the software within boxes 20 and 52.

The Applicant’s representative has also proposed that a representation of software 40 (OTS Transaction Software) be shown in Figure 1 as being stored on storage 13. Support for this change may be found in at least original claims 10 and 19. Original claim 10 is for an article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to receive a dedicated inventory allocation, complete a plurality of on-line transactions against the allocation, and request additional dedicated inventory allocation. Original claim 19 is for a system comprising a server that completes a plurality of on-line transactions, a memory coupled to the server that stores an inventory allocation, and the server decrements the inventory allocation with each transaction, monitors the inventory allocation and automatically requests an additional inventory allocation.

A flow chart for the above-mentioned software is found in Figure 4. Pursuant to this chart, an on-line order may be completed when the inventory is available. Moreover, the allocation of inventory is decremented with each on-line transaction. Thus, the actions outlined in the flow chart for software 40, which may be stored on storage 13 (a memory), are preformed by the system 12, which includes a server. As such, there is adequate support in the specification for the addition of labeled box 40 to Figure 1.

Last, the terms “network” and “Internet” are proposed to be included within the representation of a network 14, which may be the Internet. The system disclosed in Figure 1 is an e-commerce system 10. See page 4, line 8. This system 10 connects on-line customers 18 with an on-line transactions service 12. Page 4, lines 9-10. The transactions service 12 is coupled to a network 14 such as the Internet. Page 4, line 10-12. Moreover, the service 12 may communicate with the system 16 over the network 14. See page 7, lines 3-5. Thus, there is support for the inclusion of the terms “network” and “Internet” within the graphical representation at 14.

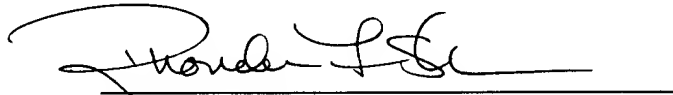
In addition to the proposed changes to the drawings, claims 3 and 29 have been amended. Thus, the objections to the drawing should be adequately addressed.

The arguments and amendments set forth in the Reply to Paper No. 4, mailed on March 18, 2002 are incorporated herein. Accordingly, a fully responsive reply to the Office Action mailed on February 28, 2002 has been submitted.

In view of the amendments and remarks in the previous Reply to Paper No. 4 and this supplemental Reply, the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

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Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving [a dedicated] an electronic indication of an inventory allocation includes receiving said [an] inventory allocation from a remote site.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Twice Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a computer to determine whether the [existing] inventory allocation has been reduced below a preset level.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Amended) A system comprising:

a server; and

a storage storing software that causes said server to provide [a dedicated] an electronic indication of an inventory allocation, receive a request for an additional [dedicated] inventory allocation, and provide an additional [dedicated] inventory allocation.